

and it is the reason that I strongly support what we are attempting to do today and tomorrow.

The question before Congress is not just about dollars and cents, revenues and outlays. The question confronting us is whether this will be the first generation of Americans that fails to pass on to our children as much freedom and opportunity as we inherited from our parents. Like many other new Republicans in Congress, I ran for the Senate promising to fight for an agenda that would guarantee my children and their generation more freedom and opportunity. This budget, I think, keeps those promises, because it guarantees that the freedoms and opportunities for future generations are greater than ever. I look forward to working with the President and, hopefully, congressional Democrats to get this job done.

We heard earlier today numerous people comment on the implications of this budget. The previous speaker was quite eloquent in trying to outline his view of America and where he thought this budget would take us. He talked about his family and their experiences in this country. I would just like to close by talking about my family.

My grandparents were all immigrants. They came to this country about a century ago in search of freedom. None of the four could speak English. Probably cumulatively the four had about \$5 in resources when they got here. But they came to this country because they wanted to live in a country that was free and they wanted their kids and their grandchildren and future generations of their family to live in a nation that was free.

They did not come here seeking a nation for the purpose of finding a place where there were great Government benefits. They believed in their own capacities to do things, and they wanted a place where they would have a chance to enjoy the freedom to do the things they want.

My parents were very hard-working folks. Neither of them had a college education. They were not really well educated, in fact, but they cared an awfully lot about their children and they wanted my sisters and me to have a little more opportunity than they did.

My dad worked for almost 20 years as a UAW member on an assembly line in Lansing, MI, in an Oldsmobile factory, and he and my mom had a small business after that. They worked very hard, 6, sometimes 7 days a week, to give my sisters and me a chance to have the other part of the American dream—freedom and opportunity.

I think what they envisioned for my generation and what I think they all wanted for my children's generation was a chance to grow up in a nation that provided these opportunities. I sincerely believe that if we burden the next generations with an ever-increasing amount of debt, we will not pass on the kind of freedom that my grandparents came to this country to find

and that my parents tried to pass on to my sisters and to me.

I just will close by saying this. We heard a lot of talk about compassion and which party has the ability to provide it and what this budget will do. But just remember, Madam President, that in this budget, we will be spending over the 7-year period involved something in the vicinity of \$12 trillion of taxpayers' money, of moneys sent to us by hard-working people across this country. We are a very compassionate Nation, I think, and we are spending most of those dollars in one way or another on programs which benefit people who are less fortunate.

So I think we are a compassionate Nation. If we continue to provide the people with the freedoms and the incentives to pursue their entrepreneurial instincts and pursue the kind of opportunity my grandparents came to this country to find, we will get the job done.

I cannot imagine, in a nation that does as much, how we can ever get to the floor and suggest we are not compassionate, our programs are not effective. I think this budget allows us to continue providing support for people who are truly needy but, at the same time, make it possible for people to enjoy the freedom and opportunities in America.

So I strongly support what we have done and look forward to working to adopt this resolution.

At this time, I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. SIMON. Madam President, I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I am struck sometimes, in listening to the discussion on the floor of the Senate, by some Members of the Senate who think that it is always intrusive to ask someone in this country to pay taxes; that it is, after all, their money and they should not be required to send it, and the only reason the Congress asks them to send it is so the Congress can squander it on one thing or another.

The fact is, in our country, we do a lot of things together. When we do things together, there is an obligation for all of us to pay for it—educating our kids, building our roads, paying for our police and fire protection, and providing for the common defense of our country. That is what we must do in our country, and all of us have an obligation to pay for some of that. And we do that through taxes.

None of us enjoys it, perhaps, but I happen to consider the taxes I pay a good investment in my children's education. I am pleased I do. I happen to consider the taxes that I pay something that I am proud to do to support the men and women, for example, who serve in our Armed Forces and risk

their lives in defense of this country's liberty and freedom. So I think we ought to talk about what is it that makes a good country and what are our obligations to each other and to our country.

About 6 months ago, I went to Dulles Airport to meet an airplane. I had about a month or two prior to that been watching television and saw on television a young woman in Bosnia whose parents had been killed, who had been critically wounded herself, and who lay in a hospital for some long while. Her brother, in the same attack that killed her parents and critically wounded her, was miraculously spared, and he was able to come to the United States. She, on the other hand, when she recovered from her wounds, after laying in critical condition, having lost her parents and then her brother having been taken from her, was living in a single room with a candle trying to study, despondent over losing her family.

I decided I was going to see if I could help this young woman somehow, and I did. She came to the United States, and I picked her up at Dulles Airport and reunited her with her brother. Coincidentally, this happened 1 year to the day after my daughter had died.

I was thinking on the way to the airport to meet this young woman from Bosnia who had suffered from such tragedy a lot of things that were very emotional for me, because we could not do much to save my daughter, and yet I thought perhaps I was helping some other young woman start a new life. I felt at least in some ways maybe there was some opportunity to reach out.

Her plane arrived and she got off the plane and was overcome with emotion as she met her brother, whom she never expected again to see. She cried and was extraordinarily emotional. When we were talking after this, she said to me, "It was only something I barely was able to dream about, that I might some day ever come to the United States of America. You don't have any idea what this means to someone to be able to come to the United States of America. We view the United States as a land of opportunity, as a place where opportunity exists to live a good life and live in peace and live in freedom."

I thought to myself, when she said that through her tears, that all of us in this Chamber, I think, and probably all of us in this country from time to time, take too much of this country for granted. If by chance we are able to hear from others what this country means to them, we can understand again what our great grandparents and grandparents and our parents helped build in this country. It is a pretty remarkable, special, unusual place. This is a superpower, a world economic leader. It did not start that way. But because of genius in people, because of a free market capitalist system, because of businesses that took risks, and, yes, even because of Governments that did